

PERFORMING ARTS IN MAINE

Maine Performs!

Presented by
The Maine Office of Tourism

Maine
There's More To Maine

and



MAINE ARTS
COMMISSION

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Maine Performs is online at
MainePerforms.com



MainePerforms.com

Maine Performs!

Amidst natural splendor, picturesque villages and historic downtowns, Maine is a place where creativity flourishes. You'll find it everywhere you turn: in small cafés, in art museums, in crafts gallery windows, and in performance halls throughout our state. In fact, there's nothing like a live performance to make your Maine vacation simply unforgettable. Your visit can include spectacular outdoor adventures, award-winning cuisine, fabulous local shopping and inspiring performances—all in the same weekend!

For generations, musicians and performers have helped to shape Maine as a renowned, four-season arts and cultural destination. **Maine Performs** will introduce you to some of our best-known and most innovative performing arts organizations and venues for dance, theater, music, film and performances of all kinds. This guide will get you started—but there's much more to explore!

For a comprehensive listing of Maine's performing arts organizations and venues, as well as festivals and events happening here throughout the year, check out **MainePerforms.com**. Join us in celebrating the performing arts in Maine.

Shoestring Theater, Old Port Festival, Portland





Maine Performs!

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Acadian Festival

www.acadianfestival.com
207-728-6250
Madawaska, ME 04756
Aroostook County Region
Event (August)



For over 33 years, the town of Madawaska has celebrated the rich Acadian heritage of the St. John Valley during the Madawaska Acadian Festival. The festival commemorates the arrival of the first Acadian settlers in 1785. Internationally renowned Acadian bands join a full roster of musicians and performers during the four-day event, which also features Acadian food, parades, bed races, historical reenactments, crafts shows and the annual “family reunion,” each year honoring a different founding family.

Multicultural Traditions

Maine is home to a welcoming mix of cultures and communities: French Acadians who settled the St. John Valley, Swedish immigrants who founded the village of New Sweden, the Micmac tribe in Presque isle, and the Houlton Band of Maliseets. The traditions and heritage come alive at festivals like the Native American Festival held in Bar Harbor and the Portland Festival of Nations that celebrates cultural traditions across America. The Franco American Festival in Waterville and the Maine Celtic Celebration in Belfast celebrate the respective heritage of those communities. For more information go to www.VisitMaine.com

Maine’s traditions and heritage come alive at festivals and cultural celebrations.





Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival

www.kneisel.org
207-374-2203
54 Main Street
Blue Hill, ME 04614
DownEast & Acadia Region
Seasonal

Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival is often called the "cradle of chamber music teaching in America". Dating back to 1885, it is the oldest and among the most distinguished chamber music programs in the United States. Located in the coastal village of Blue Hill, it hosts a ten-week series of public concerts presented by a world-renowned faculty and guest artists. In addition to the concert series, the Festival is a music school for some of the most promising international pre-professional young artists.



**PORTLAND
OVATIONS**

great performances since 1931



Portland Oventions

www.portlandovations.org
207-773-3150
50 Monument Square
Portland, ME 04101
Greater Portland and Casco Bay Region
Year-round

Portland Oventions brings exceptional performing artists from around the world to the historic Merrill Auditorium. Since 1931 Portland Oventions has contributed to the art scene in Portland with dynamic music, opera, dance, theater, and national tours. In addition to their excellent programming, Portland Oventions arranges pre-curtain lectures, master classes with visiting artists and post-performance discussions to enrich the enjoyment of performing arts by people of all ages.

Opera House Arts

www.operahousearts.org
207-367-2788
1 Opera House Lane, Stonington, ME 04681
DownEast & Acadia Region
Year-round

Opera House Arts (OHA) is an Actors Equity Small Professional Theater that offers a year-round schedule of theater, film, dance, and music. The company is also known for producing newly commissioned Maine productions. OHA operates out of the restored 1912 Stonington Opera House, which is in the National Register of Historic Places and located in one of DownEast's busiest and prettiest fishing villages. The mission of OHA is to use the performing arts to foster and promote excellence in all the ways we perform our lives: Incite Art, Create Community!



PORTLANDSTAGE where great theater lives

Portland Stage

www.portlandstage.org
207-774-1043
25A Forest Avenue, Portland, ME 04104
Greater Portland and Casco Bay Region
Year-round

Portland Stage is one of New England's most prolific and professional theatrical arts organizations, combining artistic excellence, intellectual vitality and a commitment to community. Portland Stage brings to life productions at both the Maine Stage and at the experimental Studio Theater. The theater is committed to supporting new ideas and hosts an annual new plays festival *Little Festival of the Unexpected* as well as the *From Away*, a festival which celebrates international playwrights.



PORTLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Portland Symphony Orchestra

www.portlandsymphony.org
 207-842-0800
 20 Myrtle Street, Portland, ME 04101
 Greater Portland and Casco Bay Region
 Year-round

Serving the city of Portland, the state of Maine, and northern New England, the Portland Symphony Orchestra (PSO) is the largest performing arts organization in Maine. With critically acclaimed performances and broad community engagement, the PSO is a musical hub for 82 of New England's finest professional musicians and teachers. Established in 1923, the organization recently celebrated its 85th anniversary season under the baton of Music Director Robert Moody.



SPACEGALLERY ARTS · ARTISTS · IDEAS

SPACE Gallery

www.space538.org
 207-828-5600
 538 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101
 Greater Portland and Casco Bay Region
 Year-round

SPACE Gallery is a multidisciplinary gallery and performance space in the center of the Portland arts district. Dedicated to presenting contemporary, emerging and unconventional arts and ideas, SPACE features live music performances, documentary and independent films, visual art exhibitions, artist lectures, community events and much more. With 10 exhibitions and more than 200 events each year, there's sure to be something to pique your interest at SPACE.

The Theater at Monmouth

www.theateratmonmouth.org
 207-933-9999
 796 Main Street, Monmouth, ME 04259
 Kennebec & Moose River Valleys Region
 Seasonal



In 1975 the Theater at Monmouth was named The Shakespearean Theater of Maine by the State Legislature. Devoted to innovative approaches in producing Shakespeare and the classics, the theater is a repertory company of professionals from Maine and across the country. Summer performances are held in the beautiful Cumston Hall which is listed in the National Register of Historic Buildings. Fall performances tour across the state to a variety of venues.



Maine International Film Festival

www.miff.org
 207-861-8138
 177 Main Street, Waterville, ME 04901
 Kennebec & Moose River Valleys Region
 Event

Held at the historic Waterville Opera House and Railroad Square Cinema, the Maine International Film Festival (MIFF)



is a 10-day celebration of film that presents the very best of American independent and international cinema and spotlights some of Maine and New England's most exciting and innovative filmmakers. MIFF also provides audience members with the unique opportunity to interact with

directors, screenwriters, actors, musicians and others in the industry through intimate Q&As, workshops, and lively receptions.



The Strand Theater, historic downtown Rockland

Historic Venues

In Maine you can watch Shakespeare in a century-old Victorian gem like Cumston Hall in Monmouth. You can see productions in playhouses from the Summer Stock era at Lakewood Theater and Deertrees Theatre. You can marvel at meticulously restored opera houses and historic theaters that preserve grand architectural styles in towns such as Boothbay Harbor, Biddeford, Waterville, and Dover-Foxcroft. And, you can delight in the offbeat, whimsical flavor of renovated churches, barns and movie houses in the communities of Rockland, Bucksport, Lille and others. Some of Maine's most treasured performing arts spaces are in the National Register of Historic Buildings—another aspect of the arts to appreciate while you wait for the show to begin.

Some of Maine's most treasured performing arts spaces are in the National Register of Historic Buildings.



Bates Dance Festival

www.batesdancefestival.org
207-786-6381
163 Wood Street, Lewiston, ME
Maine's Lakes & Mountains Region
Seasonal

The Bates Dance Festival is a nationally recognized presenter of world-class contemporary dance. Each July/August the Festival features a six-week season of performances and lectures. The Festival is held in intimately scaled venues on and around the Bates College campus in Lewiston, Maine.

For over a quarter century the Festival, a program of Bates College, has been bringing together a creative community of over 290 choreographers, performers, educators and students to learn, develop new work, and perform.

The Oddfellow Theater

www.oddfellow.com
207-336-3306
Route 117, Buckfield, ME 04220
Maine's Lakes & Mountains Region
Year-round



In 1996, international variety artist and Buckfield native Michael Miclon purchased the old Odd Fellow's Hall from the town of Buckfield, transforming it into the elegant and intimate Oddfellow Theater. The Theater has become well known as a presenter of unique, original live performances. The Theater received national recognition when it was a feature story on CBS Sunday Morning.



Celebration Barn Theater

www.celebrationbarn.com
207-743-8452
190 Stock Farm Road, South Paris, ME 04281
Maine's Lakes & Mountains Region
Seasonal



Celebration Barn
Creating Original Theater

From inventive physical comedy to powerful storytelling, from off-the-wall improvisation to unforgettable spectacle, Celebration Barn Theater's summer performance series brings world-class touring artists to the foothills of western Maine.

An internationally renowned center for creating original theater, Celebration Barn provides workshops and residencies in improvisation, character, movement, voice, mask, and creative collaboration. Founded in 1972 by Tony Montanaro, The Barn has helped to nurture some of America's finest touring artists, actors, dancers, mimes, jugglers and storytellers.





Ossipee Valley Music Festival

www.ossipeevalley.com

207-625-8656

91 South Hiram Road, South Hiram, ME 04020
Maine's Lakes and Mountains Region
Event

On the banks of the Ossipee River, nestled in the tall pines, the Ossipee Valley Music Festival brings top name acts and their fans together for a 4-day acoustic music event with live music from two stages. Bluegrass predominates, but other acoustic based music like Gypsy Jazz, Old Time Country, Honky Tonk, Irish, Cape Breton can be heard. The Festival is host to the New England Flatpicking, Banjo and Songwriting Contests. It also hosts numerous workshops and dances and a children's music academy, Roots & Sprouts. Camping and RV hookups are available on site, plus craft, food and music vendors.



Summer Chamber Music Festivals

Maine is home to some of the most-distinguished chamber music festivals in the country, attracting world-class performers, gifted

students and appreciative audiences every summer. Three festivals draw music lovers to the MidCoast: the Bowdoin International Music Festival in Brunswick, the Salt Bay Chamber Fest in Damariscotta and Bay Chamber

Concerts Summer Music Festival in Rockland and Rockport.

Southern Maine enjoys the Portland Chamber Music Festival,

and in Blue Hill, the Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival

is one of the oldest in the country. Plus, catch great performances at the Atlantic Music Festival in Waterville and the Sebago-Long Lake Music Festival in Harrison.

Maine chamber festivals attract world-class performers and gifted students

Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi



Lewiston/Auburn's Professional Theatre

The Public Theatre

www.thepublictheatre.org

207-782-2211

31 Maple Street, Lewiston, ME 04240
Maine's Lakes and Mountains Region
Year-round

Nationally recognized for its artistic excellence, and voted "Best Theatre Company" four times by the Portland Phoenix, The Public Theatre in Lewiston is a professional Equity theatre dedicated to producing quality theatre for the people in Maine at an affordable price. A cornerstone in the cultural life of Lewiston/Auburn, The Public Theatre produces an exciting selection of contemporary plays, featuring the finest professional actors from New York to Los Angeles.



Bay Chamber Concerts

www.baychamberconcerts.org

207-236-2823

18 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04843
MidCoast Region
Year-round

Bay Chamber Concerts began in 1961 under the direction of brothers Andrew and Thomas Wolf. Born from a Maine summer conservatory program in the 1930s, Bay Chamber Concerts brings world-renowned artists to Maine's MidCoast. During July and August, the Summer Music Festival hosts classical concerts, jazz and film events at the historic Rockport Opera House, Strand Theatre in Rockland and the Bok Amphitheatre in Camden Harbor Park. The rest of the year, the Bay Chamber Performing Arts Series features classical, jazz and world music, plus dance events.

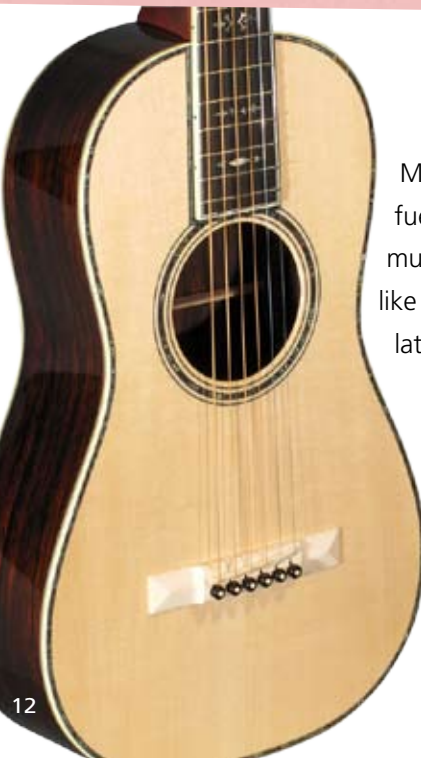
Bowdoin International Music Festival

www.bowdoinfestival.org
207-373-1400
181 Park Row, Brunswick, ME 04011
MidCoast Region
Seasonal

The Bowdoin International Music Festival is a renowned concert series that has been held on the Bowdoin College campus since 1964. The summer festival presents more than 90 concerts, offering a full range of classical works in six concert series and a long weekend of contemporary music.



Programming includes lectures, public master classes, and concerts in communities from Bath to Portland. Performers include teaching artists, top young musicians from around the world and professionals from groups such as the New York Philharmonic and major conservatories including Juilliard, Eastman and Indiana.



Homegrown Talent

Maine has a reputation for creativity, ingenuity and independence—a reputation fueled by the many performing artists who call our state home. From late great musicians such as Rudy Valley and Dick Curless to contemporary recording artists like Ray Lamontagne, Ellis Paul and Patty Griffin; from actor Patrick Dempsey to the late world-renowned mime Tony Montanaro, Maine's ability to cultivate performing

Maine's ability to "home grow" performing artists is remarkable.

artists is remarkable. Characteristic of the fertile ground Maine provides for musicians are the many talented acoustic instrument makers who live and work here. Among them is Dana Bourgeois of Pantheon Guitars, a well-known master luthier who designs and builds guitars in Lewiston, including the guitars Lamontagne plays on stages around the world.



Maine State Music Theatre

www.msmt.org
207-725-8760
Pickard Theater
1 Bath Road, Brunswick, ME 04011
MidCoast Region
Seasonal



Maine State Music Theatre is America's only resident summer theatre that exclusively produces musicals. Performances take place at the historic Pickard Theater on the beautiful Bowdoin College campus in Brunswick. With over 50 years of history, the Theatre offers live professional performances and outreach opportunities that entertain, educate and enrich lives with power and passion!



John Lane's Ogunquit Playhouse

www.ogunquitplayhouse.org
207-646-2402
10 Main Street, Ogunquit, ME 03907
The Maine Beaches Region
Seasonal

The Ogunquit Playhouse opened in 1933 and quickly became "America's Foremost Summer Theatre". The oceanside playhouse produces shows during the summer season and has an unparalleled commitment to providing the highest quality musical theatre. Using some of the brightest talent in the industry, performances at the Ogunquit playhouse are comparable to the best Broadway has to offer for less than half the New York price.



American Folk Festival

www.americanfolkfestival.com
207-992-2630
40 Harlow Street, Bangor, ME 04401
The Maine Highlands Region
Event (August)



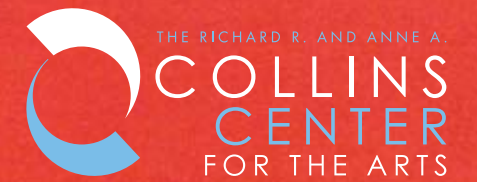
The Bangor Waterfront hosts an exciting series of concerts and events throughout the summer. The highlight comes every August with the American Folk Festival. Over 100,000 people attend this three-day celebration of traditional music, dance, and art from cultures across America and around the world. Dozens of artists on multiple stages offer diverse music styles, including blues, Irish, Cajun, Native American and more. Add in crafts demonstrations, children's activities, food vendors and art sales and you have one of Maine's must-attend events.

BANGOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Bangor Symphony Orchestra

www.bangorsymphony.org
207-942-5555
P.O. Box 1441, Bangor, ME 04402
The Maine Highlands Region
Year-round

Founded in 1896, the BSO is one of the oldest continuously operating orchestras in the U.S. The seventy-musician ensemble performs a wide variety of music from the classics and opera to Broadway and pops. The Orchestra performs regularly at the Collins Center for the Arts. They also perform at other venues such as the Waterville Opera House and at the Kingfield Pops.



The Collins Center for the Arts

www.collinscenterforthearts.com
207-581-1755
5746 Collins Center for the Arts
Orono, ME 04469
The Maine Highlands Region
Year-round

The Collins Center for the Arts on the University of Maine, Orono Campus, offers a grand venue for large-scale world-class performances in the Bangor region. Shows such as CATS, Stomp, Art Garfunkel, Alvin Ailey Dance Company, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and many more have performed at this 1400 plus seat theatre. The recently renovated facility is also home to the Hudson Museum, which houses an extensive collection of Maine Native American objects.

PENOBSCOT THEATRE

Penobscot Theatre

www.penobscottheatre.org
207-947-6618
131 Main Street
Bangor, ME 04401
The Maine Highlands Region
Year-round

Established in 1973, Penobscot Theatre Company is Northern Maine's only professional theatre company. Operating out of the historic Bangor Opera House in the heart of the downtown arts district, the theatre offers award-winning productions of plays, musicals, family entertainment, live music and new works throughout the year. Penobscot Theatre is also home to the annual Northern Writes Festival every June.

